

- *Trustees' Powers of Investment*. Report being drafted and expected to be issued by the end of 1983.
- *Limitation of Actions*. Preliminary research being carried out.
- *Justices Act*. Working Paper drafted and expected to be issued by the end of 1983.
- *Privacy*. Undertaken in co-operation with ALRC. Report will be issued as soon as possible after ALRC Report.
- *Joint Tenancies*. Research being carried out towards the production of a working paper.
- *Companies Code: Prescribed Interests*. Research being carried out towards the production of a working paper.
- *Expunction of Criminal Records*. Working paper being drafted and expected to be issued by the end of 1983.

obituary

Mr Noel Sexton

Many participants in law reform in Australia were saddened by the news at the end of August 1983 of the death, suddenly in Sri Lanka, of Mr Noel Sexton. Mr Sexton has been the first Director of the Australian Legislative Drafting Institute. He was in Sri Lanka on a six-month assignment in Colombo at the request of the Commonwealth Secretariat to conduct a legislative drafting course there. Mr Sexton's association with the Australian Law Reform Commission commenced in 1976. Whilst heading the Legislative Drafting Institute, which he had established, he was engaged as an ALRC consultant and assisted in the drafting of legislation attached to the initial reports of the ALRC. A number of the Bills drawn by Mr Sexton for the ALRC were passed into law, including the notably successful Bill attached to the report on *Human Tissue Transplants*. This has been adopted as a model in all States of Australia except Tasmania. Mr Sexton commenced a long career in the Federal Public Service in the traditional way – in the Postmaster General's Department, in 1936. In 1940 he joined the Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office. After the War, he worked with Sir William Webb on the War Crimes Commission, returning to Canberra in 1949 to join the Parliamentary Drafting Division of the Attorney-General's Department. In a long career in legislative drafting, he led the task force which brought together the last consolidation of the Australian statutes in 1973. It was in that year that he became Head of the Legislative Drafting Division. The following year he set up the Legislative Drafting Institute. The draftsmen trained in that Institute, sent to the four corners of the English-speaking world, will bear continuing tribute to his influence on the development of the law in Australia and beyond. He is survived by a widow, Mrs Marie Sexton, and three children.

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Right Hon Sir Zelman Cowen AK GCMG

GCVO KStJ QC

The former Governor-General of Australia and one-time Commissioner (part-time) of the ALRC has been appointed Chairman of the British Press Council. Sir Zelman Cowen is presently the Provost of Oriel College, Oxford, and adds the latest appointment to his life of public service. Coinciding with Sir Zelman's appointment has been a great deal of criticism of the British Press Council, including in the *Economist*. A recent book, *'People Against the Press'*, edited by Sydney-trained lawyer Geoffrey Robertson, urges the appointment of an independent Press Ombudsman by Parliament, having the stature of a High Court judge. As reported in the Australian press, Sir Zelman was not commenting on the Press Council at this stage 'but listening to everything that was being put forward'. Meantime, he continues a busy round of speaking engagements. He attended the centenary celebrations of Auckland University earlier in the year. He has also spoken in the United States, at the recent meeting of the universities of the Commonwealth of Nations in Birmingham and at the Commonwealth Law Conference in Hong Kong.

The Hon Justice M D Kirby CMG

The Federal Minister for Science and Technology (Mr Barry Jones) has announced the appointment of the ALRC Chairman as a part-time member of the Executive of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO). This body, established in 1926, is the premier scientific policy agency of the Australian Government. In October 1983, Justice Kirby will attend a conference at the Federal Judicial Center in Washington where US Federal Judges will gather to discuss the Federal Evidence Rules of the United States. Later that month, he will deliver the MacDermott Lecture at the Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. The ALRC Chairman has also been appointed to the Australian Delegation to the General Conference of UNESCO which gathers in Paris in November 1983. The Delegation will be led successively by Senator Susan Ryan and Mr E G Whitlam. In November 1983 Justice Kirby delivers the 1983 Boyer Lectures for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on 'The Judges'.

Canada LRC Changes

The last quarter has seen a number of changes in the Law Reform Commission of Canada. The former President, Mr Frank Muldoon QC, has been appointed a judge of the Federal Court of Canada, resident in Ottawa. Justice Muldoon had served as President of the Canada LRC for six years of a seven year term. According to reports, his first case will test his judicial skills to the full. He is considering claims involving the licensing of a satellite receiving station training on a 'stationary' United States satellite 'parked' in geostationary orbit over the Equator. Shades of judicial things to come. Earlier note on the new